



General Assembly

February Session, 2010

**Amendment**

LCO No. 4633

**\*HB0549104633HDO\***

Offered by:

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REP. MCCRORY, 7<sup>th</sup> Dist.  
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To: Subst. House Bill No. **5491**

File No. 588

Cal. No. 367

**"AN ACT CONCERNING CERTAIN SCHOOL DISTRICT REFORMS  
TO REDUCE THE ACHIEVEMENT GAP IN CONNECTICUT."**

1 Strike everything after the enacting clause and substitute the  
2 following in lieu thereof:

3 "Section 1. Section 10-223e of the general statutes is repealed and the  
4 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2010*):

5 (a) In conformance with the No Child Left Behind Act, P.L. 107-110,  
6 the Commissioner of Education shall prepare a state-wide education  
7 accountability plan, consistent with federal law and regulation. Such

8 plan shall identify the schools and districts in need of improvement,  
9 require the development and implementation of improvement plans  
10 and utilize rewards and consequences.

11 (b) Public schools identified by the State Board of Education  
12 pursuant to section 10-223b of the general statutes, revision of 1958,  
13 revised to January 1, 2001, as schools in need of improvement shall: (1)  
14 Continue to be identified as schools in need of improvement, and  
15 continue to operate under school improvement plans developed  
16 pursuant to said section 10-223b through June 30, 2004; (2) on or before  
17 February 1, 2003, be evaluated by the local board of education and  
18 determined to be making sufficient or insufficient progress; (3) if found  
19 to be making insufficient progress by a local board of education, be  
20 subject to a new remediation and organization plan developed by the  
21 local board of education; (4) continue to be eligible for available federal  
22 or state aid; (5) beginning in February, 2003, be monitored by the  
23 Department of Education for adequate yearly progress, as defined in  
24 the state accountability plan prepared in accordance with subsection  
25 (a) of this section; and (6) be subject to rewards and consequences as  
26 defined in said plan.

27 (c) (1) Any school or school district identified as in need of  
28 improvement pursuant to subsection (a) of this section and requiring  
29 corrective action pursuant to the requirements of the No Child Left  
30 Behind Act, P.L. 107-110, shall be designated and listed as a low  
31 achieving school or school district and shall be subject to intensified  
32 supervision and direction by the State Board of Education.

33 (2) Notwithstanding any provision of this title or any regulation  
34 adopted pursuant to said statutes, except as provided in subdivision  
35 (3) of this subsection, in carrying out the provisions of subdivision (1)  
36 of this subsection, the State Board of Education shall take any of the  
37 following actions to improve student performance and remove the  
38 school or district from the list of schools or districts designated and  
39 listed as a low achieving school or district pursuant to said subdivision  
40 (1), and to address other needs of the school or district: (A) Require an

41 operations audit to identify possible programmatic savings and an  
42 instructional audit to identify any deficits in curriculum and  
43 instruction or in the learning environment of the school or district; (B)  
44 require the local or regional board of education for such school or  
45 district to use state and federal funds for critical needs, as directed by  
46 the State Board of Education; (C) provide incentives to attract highly  
47 qualified teachers and principals; (D) direct the transfer and  
48 assignment of teachers and principals; (E) require additional training  
49 and technical assistance for parents and guardians of children  
50 attending the school or a school in the district and for teachers,  
51 principals, and central office staff members hired by the district; (F)  
52 require the local or regional board of education for the school or  
53 district to implement model curriculum, including, but not limited to,  
54 recommended textbooks, materials and supplies approved by the  
55 Department of Education; (G) identify schools for reconstitution, as  
56 may be phased in by the commissioner, as state or local charter  
57 schools, schools established pursuant to section 10-74g, or schools  
58 based on other models for school improvement, or for management by  
59 an entity other than the local or regional board of education for the  
60 district in which the school is located; (H) direct the local or regional  
61 board of education for the school or district to develop and implement  
62 a plan addressing deficits in achievement and in the learning  
63 environment as recommended in the instructional audit; (I) assign a  
64 technical assistance team to the school or district to guide school or  
65 district initiatives and report progress to the Commissioner of  
66 Education; (J) establish instructional and learning environment  
67 benchmarks for the school or district to meet as it progresses toward  
68 removal from the list of low achieving schools or districts; (K) provide  
69 funding to any proximate district to a district designated as a low  
70 achieving school district so that students in a low achieving district  
71 may attend public school in a neighboring district; (L) direct the  
72 establishment of learning academies within schools that require  
73 continuous monitoring of student performance by teacher groups; (M)  
74 require local and regional boards of education to (i) undergo training  
75 to improve their operational efficiency and effectiveness as leaders of

76 their districts' improvement plans, and (ii) submit an annual action  
77 plan to the Commissioner of Education outlining how, when and in  
78 what manner their effectiveness shall be monitored; or (N) any  
79 combination of the actions described in this subdivision or similar,  
80 closely related actions.

81 (3) If a directive of the State Board of Education pursuant to  
82 subparagraph (C), (D), (E) or (L) of subdivision (2) of this subsection or  
83 a directive to implement a plan pursuant to subparagraph (H) of said  
84 subdivision affects working conditions, such directive shall be carried  
85 out in accordance with the provisions of sections 10-153a to 10-153n,  
86 inclusive.

87 (4) The Comptroller shall, pursuant to the provisions of section 10-  
88 262i, withhold any grant funds that a town is otherwise required to  
89 appropriate to a local or regional board of education due to low  
90 academic achievement in the school district pursuant to section 10-  
91 262h. Said funds shall be transferred to the Department of Education  
92 and shall be expended by the department on behalf of the identified  
93 school district. Said funds shall be used to implement the provisions of  
94 subdivision (2) of this subsection and to offset such other local  
95 education costs that the Commissioner of Education deems  
96 appropriate to achieve school improvements. These funds shall be  
97 awarded by the commissioner to the local or regional board of  
98 education for such identified school district upon condition that said  
99 funds shall be spent in accordance with the directives of the  
100 commissioner.

101 (d) The State Board of Education shall monitor the progress of each  
102 school or district designated as a low achieving school or district  
103 pursuant to subdivision (1) of subsection (c) of this section and provide  
104 notice to the local or regional board of education for each such school  
105 or district of the school or district's progress toward meeting the  
106 benchmarks established by the State Board of Education pursuant to  
107 subsection (c) of this section. If a district fails to make acceptable  
108 progress toward meeting such benchmarks established by the State

109 Board of Education and fails to make adequate yearly progress  
110 pursuant to the requirements of the No Child Left Behind Act, P.L.  
111 107-110, for two consecutive years while designated as a low achieving  
112 school district, the State Board of Education, after consultation with the  
113 Governor and chief elected official or officials of the district, may  
114 request that the General Assembly enact legislation authorizing that  
115 control of the district be reassigned to the State Board of Education or  
116 other authorized entity.

117 (e) Any school district or elementary school after two successive  
118 years of failing to make adequate yearly progress shall be designated  
119 as a low achieving school district or school and shall be evaluated by  
120 the Commissioner of Education. After such evaluation, the  
121 commissioner may require that such school district or school provide  
122 full-day kindergarten classes, summer school, extended school day,  
123 weekend classes, tutorial assistance to its students or professional  
124 development to its administrators, principals, teachers and  
125 paraprofessional teacher aides if (1) on any subpart of the third grade  
126 state-wide mastery examination, thirty per cent or more of the students  
127 in any subgroup, as defined by the No Child Left Behind Act, P.L. 107-  
128 110, do not achieve the level of proficiency or higher, or (2) the  
129 commissioner determines that it would be in the best educational  
130 interests of the school or the school district to have any of these  
131 programs. In ordering any educational program authorized by this  
132 subsection, the commissioner may limit the offering of the program to  
133 the subgroup of students that have failed to achieve proficiency as  
134 determined by this subsection, those in particular grades or those who  
135 are otherwise at substantial risk of educational failure. The costs of  
136 instituting the ordered educational programs shall be borne by the  
137 identified low achieving school district or the school district in which  
138 an identified low achieving school is located. The commissioner shall  
139 not order an educational program that costs more to implement than  
140 the total increase in the amount of the grant that a town receives  
141 pursuant to section 10-262i in any fiscal year above the prior fiscal  
142 year.

143 (f) The Commissioner of Education shall conduct a study, within the  
144 limits of the capacity of the Department of Education to perform such  
145 study, of academic achievement of individual students over time as  
146 measured by performance on the state-wide mastery examination in  
147 grades three to eight, inclusive. If this study evidences a pattern of  
148 continuous and substantial growth in educational performance on said  
149 examinations for individual students, then the commissioner may  
150 determine that the school district or elementary school shall not be  
151 subject to the requirements of subsection (e) of this section, but shall  
152 still comply with the requirements of the No Child Left Behind Act,  
153 P.L. 107-110, if applicable.

154 (g) (1) (A) On and after July 1, 2010, the local or regional board of  
155 education for a school that has been identified as in need of  
156 improvement pursuant to subsection (a) of this section may establish a  
157 school governance council for each school so identified.

158 (B) On and after July 1, 2010, the local or regional board of  
159 education for a school that has been designated as a low achieving  
160 school, pursuant to subdivision (1) of subsection (c) of this section, due  
161 to such school failing to make adequate yearly progress in  
162 mathematics and reading at the whole school level shall establish a  
163 school governance council for each school so designated.

164 (2) (A) The school governance council for high schools shall consist  
165 of (i) seven members who shall be parents or guardians of students  
166 attending the school, (ii) two members who shall be community  
167 leaders within the school district, (iii) five members who shall be  
168 teachers at the school, (iv) one nonvoting member who is the principal  
169 of the school, or his or her designee, and (v) two nonvoting student  
170 members who shall be students at the school. The parent or guardian  
171 members shall be elected by the parents or guardians of students  
172 attending the school, provided, for purposes of the election, each  
173 household with a student attending the school shall have one vote. The  
174 community leader members shall be elected by the parent or guardian  
175 members and teacher members of the school governance council. The

176 teacher members shall be elected by the teachers of the school. The  
177 nonvoting student members shall be elected by the student body of the  
178 school.

179 (B) The school governance council for elementary and middle  
180 schools shall consist of (i) seven members who shall be parents or  
181 guardians of students attending the school, (ii) two members who shall  
182 be community leaders within the school district, (iii) five members  
183 who shall be teachers at the school, and (iv) one nonvoting member  
184 who is the principal of the school, or his or her designee. The parent or  
185 guardian members shall be elected by the parents or guardians of  
186 students attending the school, provided, for purposes of the election,  
187 each household with a student attending the school shall have one  
188 vote. The community leader members shall be elected by the parent or  
189 guardian members and teacher members of the school governance  
190 council. The teacher members shall be elected by the teachers of the  
191 school.

192 (C) Terms of voting members elected pursuant to this subdivision  
193 shall be for two years and no members shall serve more than two  
194 terms on the council. The nonvoting student members shall serve one  
195 year and no student member shall serve more than two terms on the  
196 council.

197 (D) (i) Schools that have been designated as a low achieving school  
198 pursuant to subdivision (1) of subsection (c) of this section due to such  
199 school failing to make adequate yearly progress in mathematics and  
200 reading at the whole school level prior to July 1, 2010, and are among  
201 the lowest five per cent of schools in the state based on achievement  
202 shall establish a school governance council for the school not later than  
203 January 15, 2011.

204 (ii) Schools that have been designated as a low achieving school,  
205 pursuant to subdivision (1) of subsection (c) of this section, due to such  
206 school failing to make adequate yearly progress in mathematics and  
207 reading at the whole school level prior to July 1, 2010, but are not

208 among the lowest five per cent of schools in the state based on  
209 achievement, shall establish a school governance council for the school  
210 not later than November 1, 2011.

211 (3) The school governance council shall have the following  
212 responsibilities: (A) Analyzing school achievement data and school  
213 needs relative to the improvement plan for the school prepared  
214 pursuant to this section; (B) reviewing the fiscal objectives of the draft  
215 budget for the school and providing advice to the principal of the  
216 school before such school's budget is submitted to the superintendent  
217 of schools for the district; (C) participating in the hiring process of the  
218 school principal or other administrators of the school by conducting  
219 interviews of candidates and reporting on such interviews to the  
220 superintendent of schools for the school district and the local and  
221 regional board of education; (D) assisting the principal of the school in  
222 making programmatic and operational changes for improving the  
223 school's achievement, including program changes, adjusting school  
224 hours and days of operation, and enrollment goals for the school; (E)  
225 working with the school administration to develop and approve a  
226 school compact for parents, legal guardians and students that includes  
227 an outline of the criteria and responsibilities for enrollment and school  
228 membership consistent with the school's goals and academic focus,  
229 and the ways that parents and school personnel can build a  
230 partnership to improve student learning; (F) developing and  
231 approving a written parent involvement policy that outlines the role of  
232 parents and legal guardians in the school; (G) utilizing records relating  
233 to information about parents and guardians of students maintained by  
234 the local or regional board of education for the sole purpose of the  
235 election described in subdivision (2) of this subsection. Such  
236 information shall be confidential and shall only be disclosed as  
237 provided in this subparagraph and shall not be further disclosed; and  
238 (H) if the council determines it necessary and subject to the provisions  
239 of subdivision (9) of this subsection recommending reconstitution of  
240 the school in accordance with the provisions of subdivision (6) of this  
241 subsection.



242       (4) The school governance council may: (A) In those schools that  
243 require an improvement plan, review the annual draft report detailing  
244 the goals set forth in the state accountability plan prepared in  
245 accordance with subsection (a) of this section and provide advice to the  
246 principal of the school prior to submission of the report to the  
247 superintendent of schools; (B) in those schools where an improvement  
248 plan becomes required pursuant to subsection (a) of this section, assist  
249 the principal of the school in developing such plan prior to its  
250 submission to the superintendent of schools; (C) work with the  
251 principal of the school to develop, conduct and report the results of an  
252 annual survey of parents, guardians and teachers on issues related to  
253 the school climate and conditions; and (D) provide advice on any other  
254 major policy matters affecting the school to the principal of the school,  
255 except on any matters relating to provisions of any collective  
256 bargaining agreement between the exclusive bargaining unit for  
257 teachers pursuant to section 10-153b and local or regional boards of  
258 education.

259       (5) The local or regional board of education shall provide  
260 appropriate training and instruction to members of the school  
261 governance council to aid them in the execution of their duties.

262       (6) (A) The school governance council may, by an affirmative vote of  
263 the council, recommend the reconstitution of the school into one of the  
264 following models: (i) The turnaround model, as described in the  
265 Federal Register of December 10, 2009; (ii) the restart model, as  
266 described in the Federal Register of December 10, 2009; (iii) the  
267 transformation model, as described in the Federal Register of  
268 December 10, 2009; (iv) any other model that may be developed by  
269 federal law; (v) a CommPACT school, pursuant to section 10-74g; or  
270 (vi) an innovation school. Not later than ten days after the school  
271 governance council informs the local or regional board of education of  
272 its recommendation for the school, such board shall hold a public  
273 hearing to discuss such vote of the school governance council and  
274 shall, at the next regularly scheduled meeting of such board or ten  
275 days after such public hearing, whichever is later, conduct a vote to

276 accept the model recommended by the school governance council,  
277 select an alternative model described in this subdivision or maintain  
278 the current school status. If the board selects an alternative model, the  
279 board shall meet with such school governance council to discuss an  
280 agreement on which alternative to adopt not later than ten days after  
281 such vote of the board. If no such agreement can be achieved, not later  
282 than forty-five days after the last such meeting between the board and  
283 the school governance council, the Commissioner of Education shall  
284 decide which of the alternatives to implement. If the board votes to  
285 maintain the current school status, not later than forty-five days after  
286 such vote of the board, the Commissioner of Education shall decide  
287 whether to implement the model recommended by the school  
288 governance council or to maintain the current school status. If the final  
289 decision pursuant to this subdivision is adoption of a model, the local  
290 or regional board of education shall implement such model during the  
291 subsequent school year in conformance with the general statutes and  
292 applicable regulations, and the provisions specified in federal  
293 regulations and guidelines for schools subject to restructuring  
294 pursuant to Section 1116(b)(8) of the No Child Left Behind Act, P.L.  
295 107-110 or any other applicable federal laws or regulations.

296 (B) Any school governance council for a school may recommend  
297 reconstitution, pursuant to subparagraph (H) of subdivision (3) of this  
298 subsection, during the third year after such school governance council  
299 was established if the school for such governance council has not  
300 reconstituted as a result of receiving a school improvement grant  
301 pursuant to Section 1003(g) of Title I of the Elementary and Secondary  
302 Education Act, 20 USC 6301 et seq., or such reconstitution was initiated  
303 by a source other than the school governance council.

304 (7) A school governance council shall be considered a component of  
305 parental involvement for purposes of federal funding pursuant to  
306 Section 1118 of the No Child Left Behind Act, P.L. 107-110.

307 (8) The Commissioner of Education shall evaluate the school  
308 governance councils established on or before January 15, 2011, based

309 on the criteria described in subsection (a) of section 2 of this act. On or  
310 before October 1, 2014, the commissioner shall report, in accordance  
311 with the provisions of section 11-4a, to the joint standing committee of  
312 the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to  
313 education on the evaluation conducted pursuant to this subdivision.  
314 Such report shall also include recommendations whether to continue  
315 to allow school governance councils to recommend reconstitution  
316 pursuant to this subsection.

317 (9) The department shall allow not more than twenty-five schools  
318 per school year to reconstitute pursuant to this subsection. The  
319 department shall notify school districts and school governance  
320 councils when this limit has been reached. For purposes of this  
321 subdivision, a reconstitution shall be counted towards this limit upon  
322 receipt by the department of notification of a final decision regarding  
323 reconstitution by the local or regional board of education.

324 Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2010*) (a) The Department of  
325 Education shall monitor, within available appropriations, those  
326 schools that have reconstituted pursuant to subsection (g) of section  
327 10-223e of the general statutes, as amended by this act, to determine  
328 whether such schools have demonstrated progress with regard to the  
329 following indicators: (1) The reconstitution model adopted by the  
330 school; (2) the length of the school day and school year; (3) the number  
331 and type of disciplinary incidents; (4) the number of truants; (5) the  
332 dropout rate; (6) the student attendance rate; (7) the average scale  
333 scores on the state-wide mastery examination pursuant to section 10-  
334 14n of the general statutes; (8) for high schools, the number and  
335 percentage of students completing advanced placement coursework;  
336 (9) the teacher attendance rate; and (10) the existence and size of the  
337 parent-teacher organization for the school. Such monitoring shall be  
338 conducted over the two-year period following such reconstitution.

339 (b) On or before January 1, 2012, the department shall report, in  
340 accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes,  
341 to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having

342 cognizance of matters relating to education on (1) the number of school  
343 governance councils established pursuant to subsection (g) of section  
344 10-223e of the general statutes, as amended by this act, and (2) the  
345 number of schools that have been reconstituted and the models, as  
346 described in said subsection (g), that have been adopted as part of such  
347 reconstitution.

348 (c) On or before January 1, 2013, the department shall report, in  
349 accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes,  
350 to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having  
351 cognizance of matters relating to education on (1) the monitoring  
352 conducted pursuant to subsection (a) of this section, (2)  
353 recommendations relating to changes in the reconstitution options  
354 available to schools, including whether school governance councils  
355 may continue to recommend reconstitution pursuant to subsection (g)  
356 of section 10-223e of the general statutes, as amended by this act, (3)  
357 comparison of the models adopted, and (4) the level of progress of  
358 schools adopting each model in relation to the indicators described in  
359 subsection (a) of this section.

360 Sec. 3. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2010*) (a) On or before July 1, 2011,  
361 and biennially thereafter, the Department of Education shall report,  
362 within available appropriations, in accordance with the provisions of  
363 section 11-4a of the general statutes, to the joint standing committee of  
364 the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to  
365 education on (1) the number of such school governance councils that  
366 have initiated reconstitution pursuant to subsection (g) of section 10-  
367 223 of the general statutes, (2) a comparison of those school  
368 governance councils that have initiated such reconstitution and those  
369 that have not, and (3) whether parental involvement has increased at  
370 those schools with school governance councils.

371 (b) On or before July 1, 2011, and annually thereafter, the  
372 department shall report, in accordance with the provisions of section  
373 11-4a of the general statutes, to the joint standing committee of the  
374 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to education

375 on the evaluations conducted pursuant to subsection (a) of this section.

376 Sec. 4. Section 17b-751 of the 2010 supplement to the general statutes  
377 is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*  
378 *from passage*):

379 (a) There is established a Children's Trust Fund, the resources of  
380 which shall be used by the council established pursuant to subsection  
381 (b) of this section and the Commissioner of Social Services with the  
382 advice of the Children's Trust Fund Council to fund programs aimed  
383 at preventing child abuse and neglect and family resource programs.  
384 Said fund is intended to be in addition to those resources that would  
385 otherwise be appropriated by the state for programs aimed at  
386 preventing child abuse and neglect and family resource programs. The  
387 Children's Trust Fund Council and the commissioner may apply for  
388 and accept any federal funds which are available for a Children's Trust  
389 Fund and shall administer such funds in the manner required by  
390 federal law. The fund shall receive money from grants and gifts made  
391 pursuant to section 17a-18. The Children's Trust Fund Council and the  
392 commissioner may solicit and accept funds, on behalf of the Children's  
393 Trust Fund, to be used for the prevention of child abuse and neglect  
394 and family resource programs. The Commissioner of Social Services,  
395 with the advice of the Children's Trust Fund Council, shall adopt  
396 regulations, in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54, to  
397 administer the fund and to set eligibility requirements for programs  
398 seeking funding. Youth service bureaus may receive funds from the  
399 Children's Trust Fund. [The Parent Trust Fund, established pursuant  
400 to subsection (c) of this section, may receive funds directed to it  
401 through the Children's Trust Fund.]

402 (b) There shall be established, within existing resources, a Children's  
403 Trust Fund Council which shall be within the Department of Social  
404 Services. The council shall be composed of sixteen members as follows:  
405 (1) The Commissioners of Social Services, Education, Children and  
406 Families and Public Health, or their designees; (2) a representative of  
407 the business community with experience in fund-raising, appointed by

408 the president pro tempore of the Senate; (3) a representative of the  
409 business community with experience in fund-raising, appointed by the  
410 speaker of the House of Representatives; (4) a representative of the  
411 business community with experience in fund-raising, appointed by the  
412 minority leader of the House of Representatives; (5) a representative of  
413 the business community with experience in fund-raising, appointed by  
414 the minority leader of the Senate; (6) a parent, appointed by the  
415 majority leader of the House of Representatives; (7) a parent,  
416 appointed by the majority leader of the Senate; (8) a parent, appointed  
417 by the president pro tempore of the Senate; (9) a person with expertise  
418 in child abuse prevention, appointed by the speaker of the House of  
419 Representatives; (10) a person with expertise in child abuse prevention,  
420 appointed by the minority leader of the House of Representatives; (11)  
421 a staff member of a child abuse prevention program, appointed by the  
422 minority leader of the Senate; (12) a staff member of a child abuse  
423 prevention program, appointed by the majority leader of the House of  
424 Representatives; and (13) a pediatrician, appointed by the majority  
425 leader of the Senate. The council shall solicit and accept funds, on  
426 behalf of the Children's Trust Fund, to be used for the prevention of  
427 child abuse and neglect and family resource programs, [or on behalf of  
428 the Parent Trust Fund, to be used for parent community involvement  
429 to improve the health, safety and education of children,] and shall  
430 make grants to programs pursuant to [subsections] subsection (a) [and  
431 (c)] of this section.

432 [(c) There is established a Parent Trust Fund which shall be used to  
433 fund programs aimed at improving the health, safety and education of  
434 children by training parents in civic leadership skills and supporting  
435 increased, sustained, quality parental engagement in community  
436 affairs. The fund shall receive federal or private money from grants  
437 and gifts made pursuant to section 17a-18.]

438 [(d)] (c) On or before July 1, 2010, and annually thereafter, the  
439 Children's Trust Fund Council and the commissioner shall report, in  
440 accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a, to the Governor and  
441 the joint standing committees of the General Assembly having

442 cognizance of matters relating to human services, public health and  
443 education concerning the source and amount of funds received by the  
444 Children's Trust Fund, [and the Parent Trust Fund,] and the manner in  
445 which such funds were administered and disbursed.

446 Sec. 5. Section 17b-12 of the 2010 supplement to the general statutes  
447 is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*  
448 *from passage*):

449 The Commissioner of Social Services may accept and receive, on  
450 behalf of the Department of Social Services or on behalf of the  
451 Children's Trust Fund [or the Parent Trust Fund] established pursuant  
452 to section 17b-751, as amended by this act, any bequest or gift of  
453 personal property for services for a person who is, or members of  
454 whose immediate family are, receiving assistance or services from the  
455 Department of Social Services, or both, or for services for a former or  
456 potential recipient of assistance from the Department of Social Services  
457 or for programs or services described in section 17b-751, as amended  
458 by this act. Any federal funds generated by virtue of any such bequest  
459 or gift may be used for the extension of services to such person or  
460 family members.

461 Sec. 6. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) There is established a Parent  
462 Trust Fund, the resources of which shall be used by the Commissioner  
463 of Education to fund programs aimed at improving the health, safety  
464 and education of children by training parents in civic leadership skills  
465 and supporting increased, sustained, quality parental engagement in  
466 community affairs. The commissioner may accept on behalf of the fund  
467 any federal funds or private grants or gifts made for purposes of this  
468 section. The fund may receive state funds. The commissioner shall use  
469 such funds to make grants to programs for purposes described in this  
470 section.

471 Sec. 7. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2010*) A local or regional board of  
472 education for a school district with a dropout rate of eight per cent or  
473 greater in the previous school year, shall establish an online credit

474 recovery program. Such program shall allow those students who are  
475 identified by certified personnel as in danger of failing to graduate to  
476 complete on-line coursework approved by the local or regional board  
477 of education for credit toward meeting the high school graduation  
478 requirement pursuant to section 10-221a of the general statutes, as  
479 amended by this act. Each school in the school district shall designate,  
480 from among existing staff, an online learning coordinator who shall  
481 administer and coordinate the online credit recovery program  
482 pursuant to this section.

483 Sec. 8. Subsection (f) of section 10-221 of the general statutes is  
484 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*  
485 *1, 2010*):

486 (f) Not later than September 1, 1998, each local and regional board of  
487 education shall develop, adopt and implement written policies and  
488 procedures to encourage parent-teacher communication. These policies  
489 and procedures may include monthly newsletters, required regular  
490 contact with all parents, flexible parent-teacher conferences, drop-in  
491 hours for parents, home visits and the use of technology such as  
492 homework hot lines to allow parents to check on their children's  
493 assignments and students to get assistance if needed. For the school  
494 year commencing July 1, 2010, and each school year thereafter, such  
495 policies and procedures shall require the district to conduct two  
496 flexible parent-teacher conferences for each school year.

497 Sec. 9. (*Effective July 1, 2010*) (a) There is established a task force to  
498 study and monitor the academic achievement gap between racial and  
499 socioeconomic groups in Connecticut by considering effective  
500 approaches to closing the achievement gap in elementary, middle and  
501 high schools. The task force shall consider, but not be limited to, the  
502 following: (1) Systematic education planning; (2) best practices in  
503 public education; (3) professional development for teachers; and (4)  
504 parental involvement in public education.

505 (b) The task force shall consist of the following members:



- 506 (1) Two appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives;
- 507 (2) Two appointed by the president pro tempore of the Senate;
- 508 (3) One appointed by the majority leader of the House of  
509 Representatives;
- 510 (4) One appointed by the majority leader of the Senate;
- 511 (5) One appointed by the minority leader of the House of  
512 Representatives;
- 513 (6) One appointed by the minority leader of the Senate; and
- 514 (7) The Commissioner of Education, or the commissioner's designee.
- 515 (c) Any member of the task force appointed under subdivision (1),  
516 (2), (3), (4), (5) or (6) of subsection (b) of this section may be a member  
517 of the General Assembly.
- 518 (d) All appointments to the task force shall be made no later than  
519 August 1, 2010, and shall reflect the geographic and cultural diversity  
520 of the state and shall have experience in business, education and  
521 philanthropic organizations. Any vacancy shall be filled by the  
522 appointing authority.
- 523 (e) The speaker of the House of Representatives and the president  
524 pro tempore of the Senate shall select the chairpersons of the task  
525 force, from among the members of the task force. Such chairpersons  
526 shall schedule the first meeting of the task force, which shall be held no  
527 later than September 1, 2010.
- 528 (f) The administrative staff of the joint standing committee of the  
529 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to education  
530 shall serve as administrative staff of the task force.
- 531 (g) Not later than January 1, 2011, the task force shall submit a  
532 report on its findings and recommendations to the joint standing  
533 committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters

534 relating to education, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-  
 535 4a of the general statutes. The task force shall terminate on the date  
 536 that it submits such report or January 1, 2011, whichever is later.

537 Sec. 10. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2010*) (a) For the school year  
 538 commencing July 1, 2011, and each school year thereafter, each local  
 539 and regional board of education shall provide an advanced placement  
 540 course program. For purposes of this section, "advanced placement  
 541 course program" means a program that provides courses at the high  
 542 school level for which an advanced placement examination is available  
 543 through the College Board.

544 (b) The State Board of Education shall develop guidelines to aid  
 545 local and regional boards of education in training teachers for teaching  
 546 advanced placement courses to a diverse student body."

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2010</i>	10-223e
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2010</i>	New section
Sec. 3	<i>July 1, 2010</i>	New section
Sec. 4	<i>from passage</i>	17b-751
Sec. 5	<i>from passage</i>	17b-12
Sec. 6	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 7	<i>July 1, 2010</i>	New section
Sec. 8	<i>July 1, 2010</i>	10-221(f)
Sec. 9	<i>July 1, 2010</i>	New section
Sec. 10	<i>July 1, 2010</i>	New section